

part only occupies the hinder half of the back or loins, the shoulders being exposed and covered with hair like the rest of the body.

The tail in *Cephalotes* is short and rudimentary, flattened, and formed of four or five very short joints, and not elongated and incurved as in the new genus.

I may observe that, though the index-finger of the *Cephalotes peronii* from Celebes (in the British Museum, received from the Leyden Collection) is not provided with any distinct, well-developed claw, the end of the bone is curved upwards and rather produced into a resemblance of a claw,—there being no indication of such an appendage in the animal from Viti.

*Pteropus amplexicaudatus*, from Timor, has a rather elongated head, a short free tail; and the wings arise from the sides of the back, with a broad hairy space between their bases; but this differs from *Cephalotes* in having a small distinct claw on the end of the index-finger, and in having four chisel-shaped cutting teeth in the lower jaw, occupying the whole of the rather wide space between the base of the large canines; and it has four rather conical cutting teeth in the upper jaw.

#### NOTOPTERIS MACDONALDII. (Pl. LXVII.)

Pale-reddish brown above, rather greyer beneath; the hinder half of the back, which is covered by the bases of the wings, bald, with a very narrow line of short hair down the vertebral line. The rump and upper surface of the base of the interfemoral membrane covered with hair.

*Hab.* The Island of Viti Leon, Feejees. September 1857. Male and female. Iris dark hazel. (*John D. Macdonald.*)

Male. Length of head and body  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , tail 2, fore-arm bone  $2\frac{1}{4}$ , leg bone  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inch.

Female rather smaller: arm-bone  $2\frac{1}{8}$  inches.

#### 8. NOTICE OF A NEW GENUS OF LOPHOBANCHIATE FISHES FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA. BY DR. JOHN EDWARD GRAY, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S., ETC.

(Pisces, Pl. VII.)

Among the collections made by the Medical Officers of H.M.S. 'Herald,' above referred to, is a curious and apparently new species of *Syngnathidæ*, of which I give a brief description.

#### HALIICHTHYS.

Mouth elongate, quadrangular, with a spine on the middle of each side of the upper edge. Body six-sided. Tail quadrangular. The shields of the head and body with a more or less elongated spine, each ending in a very long slender filiform beard. Under side of

body and tail flat, with a very slightly raised central ridge. Pectoral and dorsal fin distinct. Caudal fin none, or very rudimentary. Egg-pouch — ? ; none apparent in the specimen.

#### HALIICHTHYS TÆNIOPHORA.

The head compressed, spinose, with a high, arched, central ridge armed with spines, each having an elongated slender filiform beard in front of its base ; the eye-brows produced, crested, with two large curved spines on the upper edge ; the front spine furnished with a very long filiform beard on the front edge ; the lower edge of the orbit with two spines, the base of the operculum with one, and the upper edge with a prominent ridge armed with two unequal spines, the hinder one largest and compressed. The head at the back edge of the operculum with an arched ridge armed with four large compressed conical spines ; and there is a compressed bifid one on the nape between these two arched ridges. Body hexangular, or subheptangular from the obscure ventral keel, formed of nineteen rings ; the lower lateral angles are narrower than the rest, which are subequal ; each plate of the rings is armed with a subcentral spine ; and the spines on the three or four darker rings of the body are furnished with elongated filiform beards. The tail is quadrangular ; the under side is rather the widest and flat, the others are concave ; each shield is furnished with a spine like those of the body, and the greater part of the spines are furnished with a filiform elongated beard. Caudal rings about forty-five, the apical one obscure. Dorsal fin over the vent 26-rayed.

The dry fish is black above, pale beneath, with three distant black spots on each side of the body, and distant black cross bands on the under side of the base of the tail.

*Hab.* Freycinet harbour, Shark's Bay, W. Australia.

Mr. Gould read the following extract from a Letter addressed to him by George Bennett, Esq., of Sydney, dated October 15th, 1858 :—

“The semipalmated Goose, I have seen domesticated in Sydney in a poultry-yard, having been hatched by a common hen. This bird in its anatomy evidently approaches the Cranes, and in habits also. Especially when you see it running about the poultry-yard, it resembles one of the *Gruidæ* more than a Goose. The bird I allude to was one of many hatched under a hen from eggs procured from the blacks at a station on the Mooruya River, near Broulee, south of Sydney. Ten eggs were procured and placed under two hens, five for each, and in three days less than a month produced seven young Geese, which were reared by the foster-mother. The eggs are said to be cream-coloured, not larger than a small-sized goose-egg. The birds lay their eggs close to the water in the lagoons ; they commence to lay about September. The bird was an adult, and differed materially from your drawing, which I consider to represent